

Letter Bk V. me to provide for as soon as I should have an Opportunity. about the time that the Affair of Pluralities began to make a Noise in this part of the Province the Vestry of Coventry Parish lying in Somerset & Worcester Counties which had become vacant in the year 1766 & in which One M<sup>r</sup> Reade had since officiated as a Curate adopted an Opinion that the Parishioners as Founders of the Church had the Right of Patronage & gave out that they would not admit any Rector unless of the Parishioners Election; Thinking it my Duty to check such Pretensions at the Beginning I immediately ordered an Induction for Coventry to be made out for One M<sup>r</sup> Ross the Rector of a neighbouring Parish less lucrative who had the Character of a Deserving Man, but when upon his preparing to remove & take possession of it some threatening Papers were stuck up at publick Places he was so alarmed that he repaired to Annapolis & desired me to let him remain in his old Parish where he had lived in harmony with the People & I thereupon issued an Induction for Coventry Parish to the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hughs who then officiated as a Curate in Worcester County & was said to be well respected & esteemed there.

This Gentleman had come into America in the year 1755 as Chaplain to S<sup>r</sup> Peter Halkets Regiment & continued so till that Regiment returned to Europe; when he came to this Province he brought Letters from Gen<sup>l</sup> Gage & many other Gentlemen of Rank recommending him to my notice & as I knew he had at the Affair of the Monongahela & on other Occasions behaved with great Spirit I was pretty confident he was not to be easily frightened & therefore thought him a very proper Person to send among such a wrong-headed Sett of People as seemed to have taken the Lead in Coventry Parish. On his coming hither & applying to M<sup>r</sup> Dulany for His Advice how far he might legally go in order to get possession of the Church in Case the Vestry should lock up the Doors & refuse to deliver him the Key, M<sup>r</sup> Dulany gave him a long opinion of which M<sup>r</sup> Hughs before he left Town gave me a Copy which as it seems to contain his opinion with regard to the operation of our Act of Assembly & against the Canon Law being introduced here I will herewith transmit to you. As I have not heard any thing to the contrary I presume M<sup>r</sup> Hughs has taken Possession of his Parish & since the Step I took seem'd to be highly expedient I flatter myself His Ldp will approve of my inducting M<sup>r</sup> Hughs without waiting for his Instruction to do so. Having in Consequence of what you wrote to Me on the Occasion of the Death of M<sup>r</sup> Hunt desired the Gentlemen of the Council to tell me whether they apprehended His Ldps appointing M<sup>r</sup> Osgood Hanbury a Trustee in his stead to act in Conjunction with M<sup>r</sup> Capel Hanbury the